

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A broadcast receiving method comprising:
storing first control information in a storage
device, the first control information containing
5 information unique to a receiver and required for the
receiver to select broadcasted and encrypted contents
information;

receiving second control information with the
receiver via a bi-directional communications channel,
10 the second control information being for updating at
least some contents of the first control information;

updating the first control information in the
storage device on the basis of the second control
information;

15 receiving broadcasted key information independent
from the receiver and required to decrypt the contents
information; and

selecting and decrypting the contents information
based on the key information and updated first control
20 information.

2. A broadcast receiving method comprising:
storing first control information in a storage
device, the first control information containing
information unique to a receiver and required for the
25 receiver to select broadcasted encrypted contents
information;

receiving second control information with

the receiver via a bi-directional communications channel, the second control information being for updating at least some contents of the first control information;

5 updating at least some contents of the first control information in the storage device based the second control information;

 receiving broadcasted key information independent from the receiver and required to decrypt the contents
10 information; and

 decrypting the contents information based on the key information and the control information the at least some of which are updated.

3. A broadcast receiving apparatus communicating
15 with a first distributor which performs bi-directional communications, and a second distributor which performs broadcast transmission, comprising:

 a storage device configured to store first control information containing unique information required to
20 select encrypted contents information broadcasted by the second distributor;

 a first receiver configured to receive second control information distributed by the first distributor via the bi-directional communications, the
25 second control information being used to update at least some contents of the control information stored in the storage device;

an update device configured to update the first control information in the storage device based on the second control information;

5 a second receiver configured to receive key information broadcasted by the second distributor, the key information being required to decrypt the contents information and common to all broadcast receivers; and

10 a selection/decrypting device configured to select and decrypt the contents information based on the first control information and the key information.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first receiver receives the second control information after the broadcast receiving apparatus is certified by the first distributor.

15 5. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first receiver sends a use history required to charge a fee for use of the contents information to the first distributor, and then receives the second control information.

20 6. A broadcast receiving apparatus communicating with a first distributor which performs bi-directional communications, and a second distributor which performs broadcast transmission, comprising:

25 a storage device configured to store first control information containing unique information required to decrypt encrypted contents information broadcasted by the second distributor;

a first receiver configured to receive second control information distributed by the first distributor in the bi-directional communications, the second control information being used to update at least some contents of the first control information stored in the storage device;

an update device configured to update the first control information in the storage device based on the second control information;

a second receiver configured to receive key information broadcasted by the second distributor, the key information being required to decrypt the contents information and common to all broadcast receivers; and

a decrypting device configured to decrypt the contents information based on the first control information and the key information.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first receiver receives the second control information after the broadcast receiving apparatus is certified by the first distributor.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first receiver sends a use history required to charge a fee for use of the contents information to the first distributor, and then receives the second control information.

9. A method of distributing information between a distributor and at least one receiver, comprising:

receiving broadcasted and encrypted contents
information with the receiver; and

distributing first control information between the
receiver and distributor via a bi-directional
5 communications channel, the first control information
being used to update at least some contents of second
control information stored in the receiver, and the
second control information containing information
unique to the receiver and required for the receiver to
10 decrypt the contents information.

10. A method of distributing information between
a distributor and at least one receiver, comprising:

receiving broadcasted encrypted contents
information; and
15 broadcasting key information to the receiver, the
key information being independent from the receiver and
being required for the receiver to decrypt the contents
information, the contents information being decrypted
based on the key information and decrypt control
20 information containing information unique to the
receiver and required to decrypt the contents
information.

11. An information distributing apparatus
communicating with a receiver, comprising:

25 a distributor configured to distribute individual
control information for updating at least some contents
of decrypt control information to the receiver,

the receiver decrypting the contents information based on decrypt control information including information unique to the receiver and key information independent from the receiver and required for the receiver to decrypt the contents information..

5 12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said distributor certifies the receiver, and then distributes the individual control information.

10 13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said distributor receives a use history required to charge a fee for use of the contents information from the receiver, and then distributes the individual control information.

15 14. An information distributing apparatus communicating with a receiver, comprising:

 a broadcaster configured to broadcast key information, the key information being independent from the receiver and required to decrypt contents information, the receiver receiving broadcasted encrypted contents information, and decrypting the contents information based on decrypt control information and the key information, the decrypt information containing individual control information unique to the receiver and required to decrypt the contents information.

25 15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said broadcaster certifies the receiver, and then

distributes the individual control information.

16. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said broadcaster receives a use history required to
charge a fee for use of the contents information from
5 the receiver, and then distributes the individual
control information.

17. A method for distributing information to a
receiver comprising:

broadcasting key information to the receiver, the
10 key information being independent from the receiver and
required to decrypt encrypted contents information, the
receiver selecting and decrypting the contents
information based on first control information and the
key information, the first control information
15 containing information unique to the receiver and
required to select the contents information;

distributing second control information to the
receiver via a bi-directional communications channel,
the second control information being for updating at
20 least some contents of the first control information in
the receiver; and

broadcasting the individual control information if
receipt of the individual control information is not
confirmed by the receiver.

18. A method for distributing information to a
25 receiver comprising:

broadcasting key information to the receiver,

the key information being independent from the receiver
and required to decrypt encrypted contents information,
the receiver decrypting the contents information based
on decrypt control information and the key information,
5 the decrypt control information containing information
unique to the receiver and required to select the
contents information;

distributing individual control information to the
receiver via a bi-directional communications channel,
10 the individual control information being for updating
at least some contents of the decrypt control
information stored in the receiver; and

broadcasting the individual control information
when receipt of the individual control information
15 cannot be confirmed by the receiver.

19. An apparatus distributing information to a
receiver comprising:

a first distributor configured to distribute
broadcasted key information independent from the
20 receiver and required to decrypt encrypted contents
information;

a second distributor configured to distribute
first control information to the receiver via a bi-
directional communications channel, the first control
25 information being for updating at least some contents
of second control information stored in the receiver
and containing information unique to the receiver and

required to select the contents information; and

5 a third distributor configured to broadcast the first control information when receipt of the first control information is not confirmed by the receiver as a destination of the individual control information.

20. An apparatus distributing information to a receiver comprising:

10 a first distributor configured to broadcast key information independent from the receiver and required to decrypt encrypted contents information;

15 a second distributor configured to distribute first control information to the receiver via a bi-directional communications channel, the first control information being for updating at least some contents of second control information stored in the receiver, the second control information containing information unique to the receiver and required to decrypt the encrypted contents information; and

20 a third distributor configured to broadcast the first control information when receipt of the first control information is not confirmed by the receiver as a destination of the individual control information.

25 21. An information receiving apparatus which communicates with first and second distributors, comprising:

a storage device configured to store first control information required to decrypt broadcasted and

encrypted contents information;

5 a first receiver configured to receive second control information distributed from the first distributor via a bi-directional communication channel, the second control information being used to update at least some contents of the first control information stored in the storage device or broadcasted by the first distributor;

10 a transmitter configured to transmit receipt of the information when the first receiver receives the second control information via the bi-directional communications channel;

15 an update device configured to update the second control information in the storage device based on the second control information received by the first receiver; and

20 a second receiver configured to receive key information broadcasted by the second distributor, the key information being required to decrypt the encrypted contents information and common to a plurality of broadcast receiving apparatuses,

25 wherein the contents information is decrypted based on the decrypt control information stored in the storage device and the key information received by the second receiver.